

The Rev. Canon Barbara J. Price
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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

Dear People:

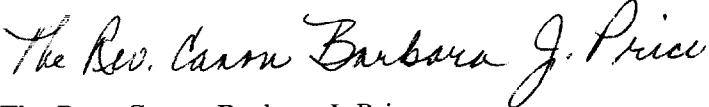
I am writing in reference to Docket # 98P-0151/CP1 having to do with the slaughter of downed animals. It should seem self-evident to any humane, thinking person that the slaughter of downed animals for animal or human consumption is totally inappropriate.

- 1) Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- 2) In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease").
- 3) It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains – practices that cause injuries including broken bones and torn ligaments. If you, as a human being, have ever suffered a broken bone or torn ligament, you know how painful that is. It is no less painful for a sick, downed animal – perhaps even more so.
- 4) Downed animals comprise a VERY small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- 5) Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

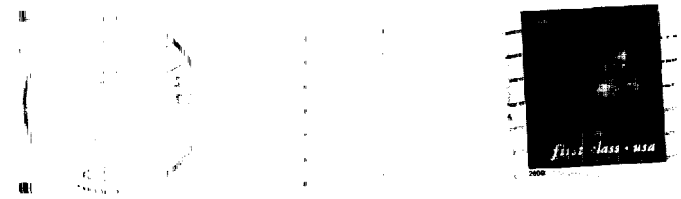
Anyone who is aware of the economic devastation, to say nothing of the cost in human health and lives, of the impact of “Mad Cow Disease in Europe and Great Britain has to know that it is just plain stupid not to do everything we can to avoid this problem in the U.S. It is ethically, morally, and economically in our best interests to take the ‘high ground’ on this issue and to have the absolutely highest standards of care in our slaughterhouse industry.

Please, do the right thing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "The Rev. Canon Barbara J. Price". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and elegant.

The Rev. Canon Barbara J. Price



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